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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/871,493	05/31/2001	Mark A. Geiger	KLMK010	9598

21999 7590 09/18/2006

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EXAMINER

CZEKAJ, DAVID J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

DATE MAILED: 09/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/871,493

Applicant(s)

GEIGER ET AL.

Examiner

Dave Czekaj

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/21/06 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

On pages 7-12, applicant argues that Malec fails to disclose the transceiver units in electronic communication with a transmitter and computer. While the applicant's points are understood, the examiner respectfully disagrees. The examiner notes that the claim does not recite a direct communication, rather just an electronic communication. See Malec, column 12, lines 32-42 and figure 5. There Malec discloses that the trigger transmitter or transceiver, in-store computer (ISC) or computer, and the transceiver or transmitter are in electronic communication with each other via the radio link and polling transceiver. Therefore the rejection has been maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-16 and 18-23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malec et al. (5295064), (hereinafter referred to as "Malec") in view of Johnsen (5250789).

Claim 1: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system comprising: a plurality of display units having a display screen attached to a plurality of shopping carts for displaying information; (See Malec figure 9A) a transmitter for sending information to the plurality of transceiver units; (See Malec figure 5 item 602) an audible alert component on the display unit for signaling receipt of information from the transceiver unit; (See Malec figure 10 items 1308 and 1309) and a computer for operating the interaction between the plurality of display units, the plurality of transceiver units, and the transmitter (See Malec figure 4 item 502), one or more transceiver units for sending information to the plurality of display units and being located proximate to promoted items, (See Malec figure 4 items 503, 500, 513 and 514. While items 513 and 514 are transmitters item 503 transmits information to the carts 500 when the carts enter a particular area thus achieving the same result as if the data was sent to a transceiver then relayed to a cart when the cart entered a particular area). However, this apparatus lacks the transceivers and product-specific promotions as claimed. One issue with Malec's invention is that it requires the on board display electronics to search for messages associated with a particular transmitter, thus requiring expensive on board memory for every cart (Malec: column 8 lines 52-65). Johnsen teaches that product specific promotions can be geared towards the

customer's needs and interests (Johnsen: column 6, lines 63-66). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the transmitters with transceivers and have the transmitted information be product specific promotions to make the invention as claimed. One would have been motivated to do so by a desire to eliminate the need for memory on the cart by sending message information directly to the transceivers to then relay the information to the display on the cart and for making the shopping experience more delightful for the user.

Claim 2: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display subsystem according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes buttons for enabling a user to select information requests and directions. (See Malec figure 9B)

Claim 3: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit automatically receives a signal for providing information. See Malec column 8 lines 52-65)

Claim 4: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver unit provides independent processing of data and independent communication with the display unit. (See Malec figure 4 item 503 as well as figure 10-item 504, note that the display is capable of independent communication with a transceiver. If the transmitter 514 were to be replaced by with a transceiver, a reasonable expectation of success would be achieved)

Claim 5: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cad display system according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver unit includes a proximity sensor that detects the presence of a shopping cart within a programmed range and initiates transmission of

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the trigger and data signals to the display unit. (See Malec figure 10 items 1313 and 1314)

Claim 6. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver unit includes a radio frequency receiver to receive radio frequency transmissions from the computer. (See Malec figure 5 item 602)

Claim 7: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes a radio frequency receiver to receive radio frequency transmissions from a transceiver unit. (See Malec figure 10 item 1317)

Claim 8: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes an infrared receiver to receive infrared transmissions from a transceiver unit. (See Malec column 10 lines 9-14)

Claim 9. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes a microwave receiver to receive microwave transmissions from a transceiver unit. (See Malec column 23 lines 45-49)

Claim 10: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes an ultrasonic receiver to receive ultrasonic transmissions from a transceiver unit. (At the time the invention was made it was well known in the art that ultrasonic transmission was interchangeable with IR or microwave transmission. Furthermore in column 10 line 12-13 Malec clearly teaches that any FCC Part 90 authorized transmission could be used. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to communicate via ultrasound motivated by the knowledge as taught by Malec that it could be used in place of IR of any other form).

Claim 11: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes a sensor utilizing an ultrasonic signal for determining distance between the display unit and the transceiver unit. (At the time the invention was made it was well known in the art to utilize ultrasonic signals to determine the distance between two objects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use an ultrasonic signal to determine the distance motivated by a need to keep track of the whereabouts of the shopping cart.) Official notice served.

Claim 12: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 4, wherein the transceiver unit has a separate identification such that data transmitted from the computer is transmitted throughout a store but is processed and stored only by a transceiver unit to which the data is intended. (See Malec column 15 lines 19-34).

Claim 13. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising a battery charger unit for powering the display unit (See Malec figure 4 item 505).

Claim 14. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the computer, the plurality of display units, and the transmitter are linked through radio frequency transmissions. (See Malec Column 18 line 57)

Claim 15, 21: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the computer, the plurality of display units, the plurality of transceiver units, and the transmitter are linked through infrared transmissions. (See Malec column 10 lines 9-14).

Claim 16: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising Internet access for connecting a shopper directly to Internet content. (At the time the invention was made, connecting to the Internet was widely known and in use. While Malec system predates the Internet as it was used at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to connect the displays to the Internet. One would have been motivated to do so in an effort to either provide timely product information or allow the customer to research a product before buying it.) Official notice served.

Claim 18. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising a means for locating a shopping cart's position within a store. (See Malec column 11 lines 23-44)

Claim 19: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising a data card reader. (See Malec lines 62-65 a smart card reader and data card reader are considered synonymous.)

Claim 20. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising a motion sensor for limiting power or turning off power to a display unit when a particular shopping cart has not been in motion for a specified time. (See Malec figure 10 item 1323 as well as column 24 lines 20-29)

Claim 22. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit further comprises a scanner for reading product UPC labels. (See Malec column 22 lines 41-55)

Claim 23 Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit further comprises a battery status indicator. (See Malec Column 23 line 68 through column 24 line 10)

4. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malec et al. (5295064), (hereinafter referred to as "Malec") in view of Johnsen (5250789) in further view of MacIntyre.

Claim 17: An electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising an alarm when a shopping cart leaves a prescribed area. (While Malec in view of Johnsen make no mention of an alarm, MacIntyre does (see abstract of MacIntyre). At the time the invention was made it was well known in the art that shopping cart theft was a serious and costly problem (See MacIntyre column 1 lines 8-25). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include an alarm system that would deter theft of said shopping carts motivated by the above mentioned teaching.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Czekaj whose telephone number is (571) 272-7327. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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TC 2600